

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRASIL 01126 102130Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
-----102138Z 129958 /62

O 102105Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0042

S E C R E T BRASILIA 1126

EXDIS

EO 11652 GDS  
TAGS PFOR ENRG PARM BR GW  
SUBJECT:SCHEDULING OF US-BRAZIL TALKS ON NUCLEAR FACILITIES

REF: STATE 029509

1. THE MESSAGE IN PARAS 1-3 OF REFTEL WAS CONVEYED WORD FOR WORD AT 10:30 A.M. BRASILIA TIME TO AMBASSADOR SOUTO MAIOR, CHIEF OF FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA'S CABINET. SILVEIRA IS OUT OF TOWN AND WILL RETURN TO THE MINISTRY ONLY ON MONDAY, FEBRARY 14.

2. SOUTO MAIOR SAID THAT HE EXPECTED THAT I WOULD HAVE AN ANSWER EARLY NEXT WEEK. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH THE INTERESTED PARTIES, INCLUDING PROBABLY, THE PRESIDENT.

3. I TOLD SOUTO MAIOR THAT I ASSUMED THAT HE WOULD AGREE THAT, PENDING THE GOB REPLY, NOTHING WOULD BE SAID PUBLICLY ABOUT THE POSSIBLE VISIT. HE SAID THAT HE AGREED COMPLETELY. I ALSO STATED THAT, AT THE TIME THE GOB GIVES ITS ANSWER, WE SHOULD DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS OF WHETHER, HOW AND WHEN ANY ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE MADE. HE AGREED.

4. I MADE THESE POINTS BECAUSE OF MY BELIEF THAT, IF THE GOB ACCEPTS THE MARCH 1 VISIT, WE SHOULD ASK IT TO HOLD OFF ANY  
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SECRET

PAGE 02 BRASIL 01126 102130Z

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VISIT UNTIL SHORTLY (24 HOURS) BEFORE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ARRIVES. THE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO REDUCE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THE TIME PERIOD DURING WHICH THE GOB WOULD BE FORCED, OR WOULD TAKE OCCASION, TO ASSUME UNHELPFUL PUBLIC POSITIONS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT, DESPITE OUR REQUEST, THE GOB MAY LEAK WORD OF THE VISIT AND MAKE SUCH STATEMENTS ANYWAY, BUT THAT IS A GOOD POSSIBILITY VERSUS THE CERTAINTY THAT AN

EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT WILL PRODUCE THEM.

5. I NOTE AND WELCOME THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 4 OF REFTEL.  
WE MOST EARNESTLY HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN CONTINUE ITS  
VERY RECENT LOW-KEY HANDLING OF THE ISSUE WITH THE PRESS.  
WE UNDERSTAND HOW DIFFICULT THIS WILL BE IN VIEW OF THE  
CONTINUING HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST IN THE PRESS AND SUCCESSIVE  
NEWS OPPORTUNITIES LIKE THE HERMES MISSION.

NEVERTHELESS, TO THE EXTENT THAT THE QUESTION MUST BE DISCUSSED  
AT ALL, THE MAINTENANCE OF A VERY GENERAL LINE AND THE  
AVOIDANCE OF SPECIFICS ARE IMPORTANT FOR THE CURRENT AND FUTURE  
MANAGEMENT OF THE ISSUE HERE (AND, WE GATHER, IN THE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC). THE LOWER THE TARGET WE OFFER THE MORE LIMITED  
THE CHANCE FOR THE GOB TO EXPLOIT THE ISSUE AND, CONCOMITANTLY,  
TO LOCK ITSELF IN. RIGHT NOW, PUBLIC ATTENTION HAS MOVED AWAY FROM  
THE NUCLEAR QUESTION AND IS CENTERED ON IMPORTANT INTERNAL ECONOMIC  
AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAVE HAD THE REGIME SOMEWHAT ON  
THE DEFENSIVE. IF WE CAN PROLONG THIS RESPITE BY AVOIDING GIVING  
THE GOB TEMPTING OPENINGS TO DIVERT PUBLIC ATTENTION IN ORDER  
TO OBSCURE INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES, WE CAN ENHANCE (NOT, WE EMPHASIZE,  
ASSURE) THE IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS FOR A REASONABLY BUSINESS-LIKE  
APPROACH BY THE GOB. MOREOVER, IT IS JUST CONCEIVABLE THAT IN  
A LONGER TIME-FRAME, A GOB THAT IS PUT IN SOME DISARRAY BY INTERNAL  
DEBATES ON OTHER ISSUES MAY BE LESS READY TO FORCE THE NUCLEAR  
CONFLICT TO THE POINT WHERE SERIOUS AND LASTING DAMAGE TO THE  
IMPORTANT BRAZILIAN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US IS INEVITABLE,  
A PROSPECT THAT COOLER HEADS, NO MATTER HOW IMBUED WITH PRIDE  
AND PATRIOTISM, CANNOT CONTEMPLATE WITH EQUANIMITY.

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PAGE 03 BRASIL 01126 102130Z

CRIMMINS

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NUCLEAR OPERATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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